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Letter dated 25 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 14 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/496), I have the honour to state the following:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its full sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf and underlines that the decisions and measures undertaken in those islands by Iranian officials have always been conducted on the basis of the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the content of the aforementioned letter is deemed as interference in the internal affairs of Iran, which categorically rejects its provisions.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always pursued a policy of friendship and good-neighbourliness with all neighbouring countries and in this context once again expresses its readiness to engage in bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates, with a view to continuing to strengthen bilateral relations and removing any misunderstanding that may exist between the two countries. Meanwhile it is obvious that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over said islands is not negotiable.

I would also like to stress that "Persian Gulf" is the only true geographical designation for the body of water lying between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, and has been used from the dawn of history. As the institutional memory of all renowned cartographic agencies testifies, this sea area has always been identified as the Persian Gulf. In this context, the policy of the United Nations and its practice of emphasizing the use of the correct name, "Persian Gulf", as the only geographical designation applicable to this body of water are noteworthy and should therefore be respected by all. Accordingly, any use of fabricated names for this body of water, including the name used in the above-mentioned letter, is not acceptable and must be stopped.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) G. Hossein **Dehghani**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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